



ORDRE DES ARCHITECTES  
ET DES INGENIEURS-CONSEILS

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## Title

**First Luxembourg Prize for Architectural Criticism**

## Announcement

First Luxembourg Prize for Architectural Criticism

Architectural criticism as a mediator between all stakeholders in a resilient community

by **Pierre HURT**, Director of the Order of Architects and Consulting Engineers

([oai.lu](http://oai.lu))

## Text

The first Luxembourg Prize for Architectural Criticism was awarded on 29 April. Organised by the OAI, this new prize forms part of the Architecture deLUX publication, in which ten European journalists and architectural historians analyse twenty exceptional projects in Luxembourg.

The winner, chosen by readers, was the editor-in-chief of a highly popular online architecture magazine, thanks to an article on a water tower.

Architectural criticism plays a decisive role in how we perceive and understand our built environment.

And good architectural criticism acts less as a simple 'good/bad' classification, and more as a mediator between all stakeholders to foster resilient community life.

This public mediation enables us to situate and understand projects within broader cultural, social, economical and urban contexts.

To be effective, architectural criticism must take place in two stages: at the time of the building's opening, and again two years after it has been in use.

This approach helps to better identify recurring patterns, strengths and challenges, and to find shared solutions.

Straddling internationalism and local identity, Luxembourg, due to its size, multiculturalism and dynamism, constitutes a 'condensed laboratory' for contemporary architecture, engineering and urban planning.

As one of the journalists pointed out: Luxembourg is simply not Monaco, and has many very positive examples of sustainable design.

The building culture needs citizens – and citizens need language that is understandable and accessible.

Architectural criticism plays a vital role in establishing this link and facilitating a broader debate to build consensus so that we can act together.

And thus mitigate the NIMBY effect (Not In My Backyard).

Embracing free architectural criticism, as an expression of our built environment, helps us to find shared answers to the following question: How do we want to build and live?

And whoever builds, builds for us all! Hence the importance of the informed client sharing their social responsibility with independent architects and engineers.

This OAI initiative aims to promote a culture of constructive dialogue, both at national level and across the Greater Region and beyond.

You can watch the awards ceremony and the round table discussion on [oai.lu](https://www.oai.lu)!

Pierre HURT

Translated by artificial intelligence. The Luxembourgish and French versions are the authoritative versions